

Programmatic Permit Guidance

Large Woody Debris Removal from Bridges General HPA GH-F3591-01

This guidance will help you interpret and understand the roles and responsibilities for complying with programmatic permits and exemptions for **large woody debris removal from bridges**. You must read the permit prior to conducting work. Only familiarity with the permit will ensure your activities maintain compliance. The permit and other referenced documents are available for download at WSDOT's programmatic permit website <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/Programmatics/default.htm>.

Programmatic permits and exemptions

- General Hydraulic Project Approval GH-F3591-01

Work covered:

The GHPA allows the removal and/or repositioning of non-embedded LWM and/or debris that have accumulated on bridges that span freshwaters.

Work not covered:

Structure or riprap installation, repair or replacement; dredging; sediment removal (other than incidental to LWM/D removal); channel changes; pile driving; limbing; brushing, etc. . . is **not allowed**.
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When and how often work is allowed:

There are no restrictions as to how often work can be conducted, so long as the 3-day pre-project notification requirement is met. Work must be conducted in the natural dry stream channel between June 1 and October 15. Work is allowed in the wetted perimeter if conducted during the freshwater fish window.

Work restrictions:

The permit specifies restrictions and required practices that minimize pollutants entering the water and the disturbance of vegetation. Notable requirements include the following:

- Removal of embedded LWM/debris is not allowed.
- Structures must be inspected to prevent large debris jams from building up.
- Bedload removal is only allowed in conjunction with and to facilitate LWD/LWM removal.
- Bedload removal is limited to less than 50 cubic yards per site per year.
- Disturbance of streambanks and fish spawning areas require separate written approval from AHB.
- Equipment can operate on dry gravel bars at low stream flow if the drive mechanisms remain above the OHWL.

Permit questions?

Gregor Myhr
Permit Program Manager
WSDOT, Environmental Services Office

(360) 705-7487

Reporting requirements:

Complete and accurate reporting of all work covered by this permit is a legal requirement.

Pre-project reporting/notification – The WDFW Regional Habitat Program Manager (RHPM) and Ecology Regional WQ program must be notified at least three days before starting work (verbal, fax, email, etc...). For the RHPM contact list, see the programmatic permit website (*documents referenced in permits* quick link). Information that must be included in the notification is found in provision 2 of the permit.

Reporting a project Maintenance crews fill out the ESA compliance forms on the PDA or the computer. Contact your Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinator (see list next page) for assistance. When reporting, maintenance staff can recommend improvements to BMPs and mitigation: This is the best way to rid our toolbox of BMPs that do not work and add BMPs that work better.

Annual Reporting WSDOT Environmental Services Office and Maintenance Environmental will coordinate to submit annual project reports to WDFW by January 31. In order to meet this deadline, project reports must be completed by January 10. An annual report will be submitted even if no work was done. ESO will convert the SR & MP to lat/long for the annual report..

Emergency reporting

Distressed or dead fish and water quality problems must be reported to the RMEC and regional WDFW and Ecology offices below.

Ecology Regional Contact Information:

Southwest Region P.O. Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504-7775 Fax # 360-407-6305 Deborah Cornett - supervisor for water quality inspectors/construction dcorn461@ecy.wa.gov 360-407-7269 Margaret Hill - water quality inspector mhill461@ecy.wa.gov 360-407-0246 Janet Boyd - water quality inspector jboy461@ecy.wa.gov 360-407-0245 Betsy Dickes - water quality inspector bedi461@ecy.wa.gov 360-407-6283 Rusty Post - water quality inspector (Vancouver field office) rpos461@ecy.wa.gov 360-690-4787	Northwest Region 3190 160th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 9808-5452 Fax # 425-649-7098 Don Seeberger - Unit Supervisor for the Water Quality Inspectors/Construction dsee461@ecy.wa.gov 425-649-4424 John Drabek - supervisor for the water quality inspectors/industrial unit Note - John's group works pretty closely with Don's group - some overlap so John is listed more of a backup but should be included in all e-mail notifications. jdra461@ecy.wa.gov 425-649-7293
Central Region 15 West Yakima Ave Suite 200 Yakima, WA 98902-3452 Fax # 509-575-2809 Jeff Lewis - supervisor for water quality inspectors jlew461@ecy.wa.gov 509-454-7207 Ray Latham - water quality inspector rlat461@ecy.wa.gov 509-575-2807 Terry Whittmeier twit461@ecy.wa.gov 509-574-3991	Eastern Region N 4601 Monroe Spokane, WA 99205-1295 Fax # 509-329-3570 Lenox Bramble (called Len) - supervisor for water quality permit writers lbra461@ecy.wa.gov 509-329-3504 Mike Hepp - water quality inspector mhep461@ecy.wa.gov 509-329-3536

Department of Fish and Wildlife Contact Information:

Region 1 – Spokane: 509-456-4082	Region 4 – Mill Creek: 425-775-1311
Region 2 - Ephrata: 509-754-4624	Region 5 – Vancouver: 360-906-6700
Region 3 – Yakima: 509-575-2740	Region 6 – Montesano: 360-249-4628

WSDOT, Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinators:

NCR—Joe Williams: 509-667-3054	SCR—Mark Reynolds 509-577-1755
SWR—Candace Jochim: 360-905-2173	ER —Erv Koller: 509-324-6133
NWR—Mark Cornwall: 206-440-4523	OR —Ken Schlatter: 360-570-6707

